

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9649

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13366

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: UPPER HOUSE SECRETARIAT AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP
ELECTIONS

1. THE UPPER HOUSE HELD ELECTIONS FOR SECRETARIAT AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS FOR 1974-75 TERM AT A PLENARY MEETING ON OCT 17. FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE OPPOSITION LIST OF SECRETARIAT CANDIDATES, PRO-GOVT CHRNMN TRAN VAN LAM'S SECRETARIAT LIST WAS ELECTED BY 38 VOTES TO 2 ABSTENTIONS.

2. THE SUCCESSFUL SECRETARIAT LIST IS COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

SEN TRAN VAN LAM	CHAIRMAN
SEN TRAN TRUNG DUNG	FIRST VICE CHRNMN
SEN PHAN VAN HAT	SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN
SEN DAO HUU PHAN	SECRETARY GENERAL

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SEN NGUYEN DHOA PHUOC UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

SEN NGUYEN VAN NHUE COMPTROLLER
SEN YA BA COMPTROLLER

SEN HAT REPLACES SEN PHAM NHU PHIEN AND SEN PHUOC REPLACES
SEN LE TRI QUAC.

3. ALL PRO-GOVT NOMINEES FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS WERE
SUCCESSFUL, AND ALL BUT FOUR CHAIRMANSHIPS REMAIN SAME AS
LAST TERM. THE FOLLOWING CHAIRMEN WERE ELECTED:

SEN TRAN VAN QUA AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
SEN LE TAI QUAC PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS
 CMTE
SEN NGUYEN VAN AN ECONOMY COMMITTEE
SEN NGUYEN HUU LUONG LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE CMTE
SEN PHAN DO THANH BUDGET, FINANCE AND TAXATION
 CMTE
SEN NGUYEN DUY TAI INFO AND FOREIGN RELATIONS CMTE
SEN NGUYEN TOAI INTERIOR CMTE
SEN NGUYEN VAN NGUU NATIONAL DEFENSE CMTE
SEN HOANG XUAN HAO JUDICIARY CMTE
SEN LE PHUOC SANG CULTURE, EDUCATION AND YOUTH CMTE
SEN NGUYEN DUC TRANG PUBLIC HEALTH CMTE

SEN PHAM TRUONG WAS REPLACED ON PUBLIC WORKS, SEN DOAN VAN

CUU WAS REPLACED ON LABOR, SEN TRAN NGOC OANH WAS REPLACED ON
BUDGET AND SEN TON THAT DINH WAS REPLACED ON NATIONAL DEFENSE.
DURING THE COMING WEEK, COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE DECIDED AMONG
UPPER HOUSE MEMBERS.

4. THE DAY PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, TWO SEVEN-MAN CANDIDATE
LISTS WERE POSTED IN FRONT OF THE UPPER HOUSE. THE FIRST LIST
CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF A COMBINATION OF BUDDHIST (LOTUS
SLATE) AND CATHOLIC (LILY SLATE) OPPOSITION SENATORS. IT
WAS MADE UP OF SENATORS TRANG QUANG THUAN (CHRMN), LE CHAU LOC
(FIRST VICE CHRMN), TRAN DUY DON (SECOND VICE CHRMN),
TON THAT NIEM (SECGEN), DOAN VAN LUONG (DEPUTY SECGEN), AND
TRUONG TIEN DAT AND PHAM VAN BA (COMPTROLLERS). THE SECOND
LIST WAS THE PRO-GOVT LIST WHICH WAS EVENTUALLY ELECTED.
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DURING DEBATE ON OCT 17, A NUMBER OF THE OPPOSITIONISTS
EXPRESSED THEIR SURPRISE AT FINDING THEMSELVES ON A LIST AND
PROTESTED THAT THIS WAS A PRO-GOVT TACTIC TO AVOID THE APPEAR-
ANCE OF AN UNCONTESTED ELECTION. PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL VOTE,
THESE OPPOSITIONISTS LEFT THE CHAMBER. 42 OF THE 59 SENATORS
PARTICIPATED AT SOME POINT IN THE VOTING.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THE PRO-GOVT DEMOCRACY BLOC

AND UNITY BLOC LEADERSHIP ATTEMPTED TO ACCOMMODATE THE OPPOSITION BY OFFERING SOME SECRETARIAT POSITIONS AND CHAIRMANSHIPS. SEN THUAN, LOTUS SLATE MEMBER, HAS RECENTLY BECOME MORE PRO-GOVT. APPARENTLY, HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT CONVINCE OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF THE LILY OF LOTUS SLATES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION, AFZ THEY REQUESTED THAT HE WITHDRAW HIS LIST. THIS HE DID JUST PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE ELECTION SESSION.

6. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION WAS LESS STORMY THAN LOWER HOUSE EARLIER THIS WEEK, THERE WERE SIMILAR CHARGES BY THE OPPOSITION OF PRO-GOVT DOMINATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND, ULTIMATELY, A MORE ORDERLY, BUT SIMILAR REFUSAL OF THE

OPPOSITION TO TAKE PART IN THE FINAL VOTE. THERE WAS NOT, HOWEVER, AN EROSION OF GOVT STRENGTH AS OCCURRED DURING THE

LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS AND THE GOVT WOULD HAVE LESS TROUBLE WITH ITS PROGRAM HERE THAN

IT CAN EXPECT IN THE LOWER HOUSE.

MARTIN

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